

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Anneliese S. Mayer on March 25, 2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

2.1. In claim 1:

a) line 12, the phrase "at least about 5:1" has been replaced with

--6:1 to 18:1-- (support is found on page 27, Table 5, A1 and page 30, Table 8, N1);

b) lines 14-15 (last two lines), the phrase " , and water constituting at least about 5% by weight of the total weight of the solid cleaning composition" has been deleted.

2.2. In claim 3, line 2, the phrase "at least about 6:1" has been replaced with

--about 9:1--

(support is found on page 25, Table 3, A, B, F and page 2, lines 27-31).

2.3. In claim 18, line 1, "claim 1" has been replaced with --claim 10--.

2.4. In claim 34:

a) lines 12-13, the phrase “the water constitutes at least about 5% by weight of the total weight of the solid cleaning composition, and such that” has been deleted;

b) line 14, the phrase “at least about 5:1” has been replaced with
--6:1 to 18:1--.

2.5. In claim 35, line 2, the phrase “at least about 6:1” has been replaced with

--is about 9:1--.

2.6. In claim 38:

a) lines 13-14, the phrase “the water constitutes at least about 5% by weight of the total weight of the solid cleaning composition, and such that” has been deleted;

b) line 15, the phrase “at least about 5:1” has been replaced with
--6:1 to 18:1--.

2.7. In claim 40, lines 1-2, the phrase “at least about 6:1” has been replaced with

--about 9:1--.

2.8. In claim 55, line 1, “claim 38” has been replaced with --claim 47--.

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims in their present amended forms have overcome each of GB 818,151 and Steindorf, the close prior art of record because none of them teaches, discloses or

Art Unit: 1796

suggests a solid cleaning composition or a method of forming a solid cleaning composition in the manner as those recited, in particular, wherein the solid binding agent comprises hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA) and water in a weight ratio of 6:1 to 18:1. The maximum weight ratio of HEDTA to water in GB '151 is 5:1 (see Composition No. 4 on page 3, lines 87-95) which is outside the recited range. In Steinfeld, the maximum weight ratio of HEDTA to water is 4.44:1 (see claim 5), which is also outside the required range. In addition, none of the prior art of record recognizes the HEDTA and water in their recited weight ratios as a solid binding agent for solid cleaning compositions. Accordingly, the subject matter as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the detergent art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is 571-272-1313. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lorna M. Douyon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796